DPI PROGRAMME Update

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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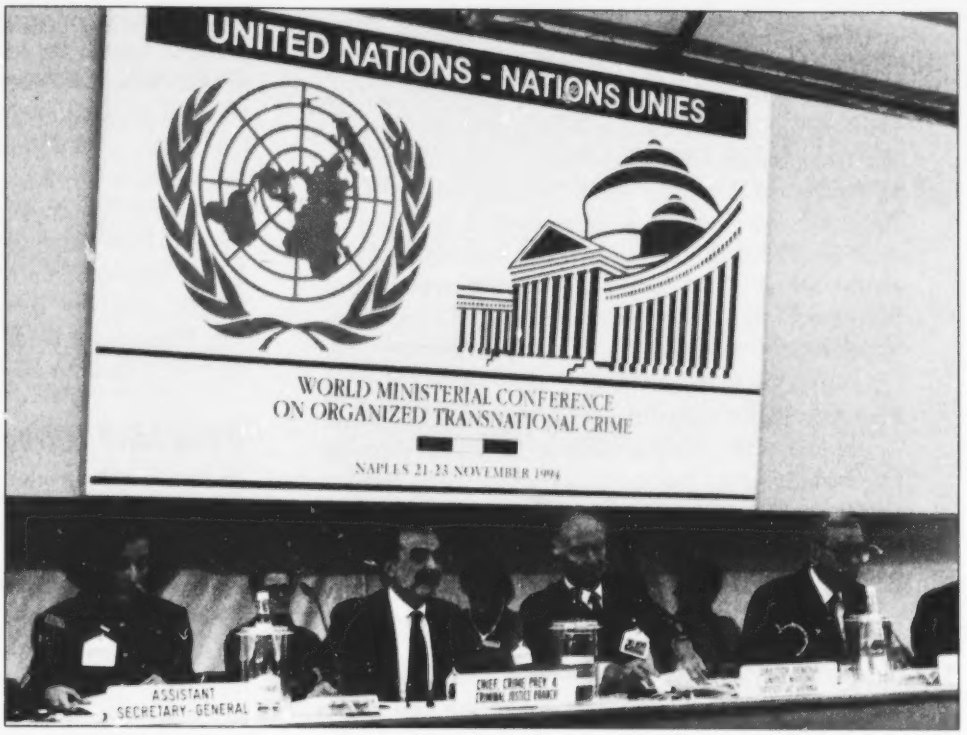
UPCOMING EVENTS

16-27 January 1995
Third session of the Preparatory Committee of the World Summit for Social Development will be held in New York.

8 March 1995
International Women's Day, see page 6.

6-12 March 1995
World Summit for Social Development will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

30 November 1994



Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali addresses the Conference on Transnational Crime in Naples. From left to right: Rosario Green, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs; Eduardo Vetere, Chief of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch; and Giorgio Giacomelli, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna and Executive Director of the UN Drug Control Programme.

SECRETARY-GENERAL OPENS CONFERENCE ON CRIME IN NAPLES

In Naples on 21 November, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali opened the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime. He told the gathering of high-level officials that one of the best ways of preventing transnational crime was to contribute to the development of countries in transition and economies in crisis. The Conference in Naples was the first stop on the Secretary-General's official trip to Italy, Algeria, Morocco, France, Hungary and Canada, with a stop-over in Geneva, for meetings with Government leaders and other high-level officials. The Secretary-General also made a special trip to Sarajevo.

During his visit to Rome, the Secretary-General had an audience with Pope John Paul II. He also met with Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino, Egyptian President Muhamed Hosni Mubarak, and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who was elected Chairman of the Crime Conference.

The Secretary-General and Defence Minister Cesare Previti signed the Memorandum of Understanding and the Implementation Agreement on the establishment of a UN Logistics Base in Brindisi. The Secretary-General also addressed a special session of the Senate on the theme, "Role of the United Nations in Peace and Development".

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AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Secretary-General's report *An Agenda for Development: Recommendations* (A/49/665, 11 November) was taken up by the General Assembly in a high-level debate on 21-22 November. During the debate it became clear that Governments were far from agreement on the Secretary-General's proposals. Delegations expressed strong support for establishing an ad hoc open-ended working group of the Assembly which would work towards a final text. A draft resolution to that effect was submitted by Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 developing countries and China to the Assembly's Second Committee for discussion (A/C.2/49/L.41, 25 November).

A number of Governments stated in the debate that the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations would be an appropriate time to adopt *An Agenda for Development*. The initial text of the draft resolution raises the possibility of convening a UN Conference on Development, as proposed by Brazil, which could be a suitable forum for approving the final text.

Based on the framework released by the Secretary-General in May (A/48/935, 6 May 1994), the recommendations take into account discussion at the June ministerial-level segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), as well as the World Hearings on Development, organized by the President of the General Assembly the same month.

Recommendations

"Development must be driven by national priorities", the Secretary-General writes in *An Agenda for Development: Recommendations* (A/49/665, 11 November 1994). While the individual State is no longer the sole actor in development, "each state bears primary responsibility for its own development", he says. Development programmes must be built through partnerships involving government, civil society and strong private enterprise sectors.

In a chapter on international efforts, the Secretary-General calls for "a favourable, growth-oriented international setting for development" with "equitable integration of the poorest and least-endowed countries into the world economy".

On the role of the United Nations, the report says the General Assembly must focus the attention of the international community on a new framework for development cooperation. The Economic and Social Council should be revitalized, and the links with the Bretton Woods institutions should be strengthened.

The Secretary-General recommends that the fiftieth session of the General Assembly focus the attention of the international community on forging a new framework for development cooperation. He suggests that an international conference on the financing of development be considered. He also recommends that the early part of General Assembly regular sessions, with high-level participation, focus on a dialogue on development issues.

AVAILABLE MATERIALS ON DEVELOPMENT

(in all official languages)

Reports of the Secretary-General

An Agenda for Development: Recommendations (A/49/665, 11 November 1994).

An Agenda for Development (A/48/935, 6 May 1994). These recommendations take into account the discussion at the June ministerial-level segment of ECOSOC, as well as the World Hearings on Development, organized by the President of the General Assembly the same month.

Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development: Draft Declaration and Draft Programme of Action, (A/CONF.166/PC/L. 22 November 1994). These two documents will be discussed at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, to be held 16-27 January 1995 in New York.

Letter dated 24 October 1994 from the representatives of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/580, S/1994/1217, 27 October 1994). Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America and Commitments on the Environment and Natural Resources, adopted at the Central American Environment Summit Meeting for Sustainable Development, held in Managua, Nicaragua, 12-13 October 1994.

WOMEN

FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

- Action for Equality, Development and Peace.

The question of women's rights remains high on the international agenda, reflected in most major UN issues such as sustainable development, population and the eradication of poverty. How far Governments have come to eliminating discrimination against women in the 20 years since the first UN Conference on Women in Mexico City will be assessed at the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing, China, from 4 to 15 September 1995. The Conference will adopt a Platform for Action, identifying obstacles to the advancement of women in the world.

The first United Nations Conference on Women, held in Mexico City in 1975, led to the declaration by the General Assembly of the 1976-1985 UN Decade for Women. The second Conference, held in Copenhagen in 1980, adopted a *Programme of Action* for the Second Half of the Decade for Women. The third Conference in Nairobi in 1985 adopted the *Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000.* That document was based on the three objectives of the 1976-1985 UN Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. Ten years later, the 1995 Platform for Action is intended to speed up the process of making the Strategies a reality.

Gertrude Mongella is the Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women. She also heads the Division for the Advancement of Women, which is responsible for organizing the Conference and preparing its documents.

Gertrude Mongella, Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

NGO FORUM ON WOMEN '95

A parallel NGO Forum on Women '95 will be held from 30 August to 8 September 1995 at the Beijing Workers' Sports Centre, a site close to the Beijing International Conference Centre where the UN conference will be convened. The Forum has two goals: to influence the Platform for Action that UN Member States will adopt and to highlight women's vision for the world in the 21st century. The theme of the Forum is "look at the world through women's eyes".

For NGO accreditation to the Conference, write to:
NGO Accreditation, Conference Secretariat,
2 UN Plaza, Room 1204, N.Y., N.Y. 10017
Tel: (212) 963 8034 Fax: (212) 963 3463

For registration with the NGO Forum on Women '95:
NGO Forum on Women '95
211 East 43rd Street, Suite 1500
New.York, N.Y. 10017
Tel: (212) 922 9267/8 Fax: (212) 922 9269

UNICs PROMOTE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

UNICs around the world are working closely with national preparatory committees, NGOs, national broadcasters and UN system partners to develop programmes in support of the Fourth World Conference on Women. Following the success of UNIC efforts to sensitize the local public opinion about the issues before the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, Centres are now planning journalists encounters, symposia and seminars, which have proven to be very effective in generating media attention, shedding light on difficult or controversial issues and getting the word to the general public about United Nations issues.

Some Centres have proposed the use of radio sketches and spots, small discussion groups and workshops, as well as video co-productions with local broadcasting systems, to give fuller coverage to the status of women and other issues in the countries they serve.

UNIC Harare reports that it will translate the Conference brochure (DPI/1468) into the two local languages, Shona and Ndebele.

The Programme Support Section/ICS/DPI has available a small amount of seed money for translation of the Conference brochure into local languages as well as for special projects. There is still some seed money left for UNIC activities to promote the Conference. Please forward your proposals for consideration as soon as possible to:

Ms. Leona Forman, Chief
Programme Support Section ICS/DPI, Room S-1060H
Tel: (212) 963 4481 Fax: (212) 963 7330

UNIC ROME HELPS ITALIAN NGOs PREPARE FOR BEIJING CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

The Italian Women's Association for Development (AIDOS) has begun an information campaign on the Beijing Conference financed by contributions from the European Union. **UNIC Rome** is collaborating closely with AIDOS in providing information to its campaign.

UNIC Director Nadia Younes was invited to speak at a meeting of Italian NGOs in connection with the Regional Preparatory Conference for the Fourth World Conference (Vienna, 17-21 October). She described the United Nations work to promote equality of women and outlined the objectives of the 1995 Beijing Conference emphasizing the growing role of NGOs in international cooperation. The meeting was held at the Capitol in Rome on 3 October.

Ms. Younes also spoke at a meeting of the Soroptimists International of Italy on 25 October. The focus of the meeting was the role of the NGOs at the Beijing Conference. The keynote speaker was Maria Rita Saulle, Chairperson of International Organizations, University of Rome, and the Human Rights Department, LUISS University, Rome. Among other participants were the Chinese Ambassador to Italy and the President of the Italian National Commission for Parity and Equal Rights for Men and Women.

Newsletters on Women

UNIC Buenos Aires co-produced a newsletter in Spanish, entitled *The Steps to Beijing*, for the Regional Preparatory Conference held in Mar del Plata in September. UNIFEM, UNDP and UNICEF were co-producers of the newsletter which was distributed to participants and journalists at the Preparatory Conference.

The Focal Point for the Women's Conference, Hazel Burnett, who is based in Beijing, reports that the DPI newsletter *Your World* has been issued in English and Chinese. It contains articles on the European/North American high-level regional preparatory meeting for the Conference, held in Vienna in October; China in the United Nations; and UNIFEM's work in the China. It may be obtained by contacting:

Hazel Burnett, Senior Information Officer
Dongsanjie Sanlitun, 2-2-41
Beijing 100600
People's Republic of China
Tel: (86-1) 532 5283 Fax: (86-1) 532 6692

VOICE FOR YOUTH AT BEIJING CONFERENCE

Regional youth consultations are part of the efforts to create a voice for young people between the age of 18 and 25 at the Conference on Women. The Secretariat for the Conference has organized youth meetings preceding the regional Preparatory Conferences in order to enable youth to develop their own programme on the regional level. At the first youth consultations in Jakarta in June, young women and men worked with the regional Platform for Action and made their own amendments to the document. The last youth consultations before the Conference begins in Beijing were held in Senegal, preceding the regional Preparatory Conference for Africa, 16-23 November. For more information, please contact:

Sherrill Whittington
Fourth World Conference on Women
Division for the Advancement of Women
Tel: (212) 963 4757 Fax: (212) 963 3463

INFORMATION MATERIALS ON FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

With a range of regional preparatory activities for the Fourth World Conference on Women now under way, the Programme Support Section has received many requests for information, documents and materials pertaining to the September 1995 gathering in Beijing.

The following list describes what is available in print, video, radio and filmed materials as well as the status of print materials being produced. Contacts for additional information are also included.

DPI PUBLICATIONS

Fact sheets and Brochures

Women, Fact sheet 4, October 1994 (DPI/1574). This factsheet contains information about the preparation of the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995.

Focus on Women, Literacy: A Key to Women's Empowerment (DPI/1567, September 1994). About 905 million men and women - almost a quarter of the world's adult population - are illiterate and about 65 per cent of them are women, says this backgrounder on women and literacy. The good news is that in some countries, especially in developed ones, and some parts of Latin America and the Caribbean, there is now no significant gender gap in education at the primary level. The only regions where male-female disparities remain pronounced are South Asia, the Arab States and Sub-Saharan Africa. The backgrounder publicizes the issues of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Fourth World Conference on Women (DPI/1468 September 1994). This brochure describes areas where women continue to face social, economic, political and cultural discrimination. It gives background information about the Fourth World Conference on Women and about the regional focal points for the Conference on Women.

Women: Challenges to the Year 2000 (DPI/1175). English, French and Spanish language versions of this brochure have already been distributed to UNICs. Centres in Arabic-speaking countries may request copies of Arabic versions through the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA). Graphics accompanying the text for local printing are available on request for UNICs wishing to print large quantities of this brochure.

Backgrounders

Text for the backgrounder *Conference to Set Women's Agenda into Next Century* (DPI/1424), is available to all UNICs for photocopying or adaptation into local languages. The backgrounder has been reissued in English, French and Spanish.

Poster

The Conference poster is being produced in all six official languages. The first of these will be available in early December. Graphics accompanying the text are available on request, as well as blanks where local language overlays are required.

WOMEN

Language versions of several previously issued backgrounders are available on request. Among them are the following:

DPI Backgrounder (DPI/1424 A,C,F,R,S); Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies (DPI/926 A,C,E,F,R,S);

Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women DPI/993 A,C,E,F,R,S);

End Discrimination against Women brochure (DPI/995/Rev. 1 A,E,F,S);

Women: Challenges to the Year 2000, (DPI/1134 A,C,E,F,R,S);

Quest for Women's Rights (DPI/1144 is available only in French and Spanish;

Violence against Women (DPI/1332 E,F,S).

All materials may be obtained by contacting:
Ms. Larissa Sidorova, Chief
Dissemination Unit, ICS/DPI, Room S-206
Tel: (212) 963 1258 Fax: (212) 963 4642

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
8 MARCH 1995

International Women's Day 1995 takes on a particular importance this year in view of the upcoming Fourth World Conference on Women. In observance of International Women's Day, special activities are being planned in Copenhagen as part of the World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Denmark, 6-12 March 1995.

A backgrounder containing information on the International Women's Day and the message of Gertrude Mongella, the Secretary-General of the Conference, is being prepared by DPI.

DOCUMENTS
Reports of the Secretary-General:

Advancement of Women

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) A/49/314, 15 August 1994). This report describes UNIFEM projects currently in development in different areas and regions.

Violence Against Women Migrant Workers, (A/49/354, 1 September, 1994).
Statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC, category 1, E/1994/NGO 1, 23 June 1994. Statement on the participation of women in politics and the question of violence against women and girls.

Status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/49/308, 12 August). This document reports on the status of the Convention since it was opened for signature on 1 March, 1980. As of August 1994, 134 States had become parties to the Convention: 88 had ratified it, 40 States had acceded and 6 States had succeeded to it. In addition, the report says, seven States had signed it without yet ratifying it. The Convention, which was adopted by the General Assembly (resolution 24/180, 18 December 1979) is available in all official languages.

Report of the Eighteenth Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Women (ACC/1994/8, 30 June, 1994). The work of this group is centred on preparations for the World Conference, including discussions of the preparatory process at the national, regional and global levels, the Platform for Action and the second review and appraisal of implementation of the Nairobi-Forward- looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

WOMEN

1994 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (A/49/378, 12 September). This is the third in a series of World Surveys, published every five years that are timed to be issued before the five-yearly review and appraisal of the Nairobi-Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. The first report examined the contribution of women to the economy, demonstrating that women were key participants in economic development. The second began to explore the relationship between the participation of women and the global adjustment process. The third Survey examines what has happened as a result of the emergence of women as decisive elements in the global economy.

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, (CEDAW/C/SR.247, 11 March 1994). Contains the statement by the Director of UNIFEM and the consideration of the report submitted by Senegal.

For documents listed, please contact:
Ms. Christine Smith-Lemarchand, Chief
Distribution Section
Tel: (212) 963 7345 Fax: (212) 963 4944

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Women on the Move, 1994, issue number 5. This newsletter is produced by the Secretariat of the Fourth World Conference on Women. The lead article deals with the first Regional Preparatory Conference: Women in Asia and the Pacific, which was inaugurated by President Soeharto in Jakarta, Indonesia, last June. Among findings emerging from the meeting: the status of women of the region has improved since 1985; women of the region cite the growing feminization of poverty; there is an inadequate recognition of women's role in environment and natural resource management; and inequalities and lack of access to health, education and literacy are among women's greatest concerns. For copies of the newsletter, please contact:

Secretariat for the Fourth World Conference on Women
Division for the Advancement of Women
Fax: (212) 963 3463

Notas Sobre la Economia y el Desarrollo, No.562/563 September 1994. In this issue of *Notas*, the Information Service of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has included the document entitled *Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in the 1990s: diagnostic elements and proposals* (LC/L.836 (CRM.6/4) prepared by the ECLAC Secretariat for the sixth session of the Regional Preparatory Conference (Mar del Plata, 25-29 September 1994).

The World's Women: Trends and Statistics 1970-1990. Reference copies of this sales publication (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.K/8), now available in all official languages, should be available in all UNIC libraries. According to UNIFEM, the United Nations Decade for Women called for a pioneering study of social trends and statistics by gender in 1975. The World's Women is the most complete depiction so far of women's conditions and contributions across the world. DPI is cooperating with the producers in the addition of new sections, in particular "Women and the Media". The Programme Support Section has a few English, French and Spanish copies which can be made available to Centres on request.

Guide to Women-Specific Policies and Programmes within UN Departments and Specialized Agencies. This publication by the Quaker United Nations Office is a compilation of reports from 24 UN departments and agencies concerning their main programmes and policies on women. Editors say it is an attempt to "mainstream women's programmes within the UN system". The Secretary-General of the Beijing Conference, Gertrude Mongella, says the document will be "a valuable source of information and reference to many people who need to know who is doing what in the United Nations regarding women".

United Nations Office,
777 UN Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017
Tel: (212) 682-2745 Fax (212) 983 0034

Women In Parliament Poster. Produced by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 1993, the poster shows the distribution of women parliamentarians around the world. As of June 1993, Finland, Iceland, Norway and the Seychelles led the way with female legislators making up 45-49 per cent of their parliaments. The Programme Support Section will provide UNICs with a reference copy of the poster on request.

Information Material in Preparation

Directory of Focal Points on Women in the United Nations System is now being compiled by the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Committee for the Fourth World Conference on Women. A reference copy will be sent to Centres when it becomes available.

Curriculum Vitae of Mrs. Mongella. The Division for the Advancement of Women is working on language versions of Mrs. Mongella's biography which will be forwarded to UNICs with photos.

Notes for Speakers (E, F, S). A special edition of Notes for Speakers will focus on women, highlighting critical areas of concern identified in the draft Platform for Action. The product is expected to be distributed in March 1995.

Pamphlet on Draft Platform for Action. This pamphlet is expected to be distributed in December 1994.

Student Leaflet. This year's student leaflet, which focuses on the girl child, will be available in English, French and Spanish in December 1994. Films or diskettes of the text will be available to Centres wishing to produce the leaflet locally.

The Planning and Special Programmes Section, DPI, is developing new materials on AIDS, poverty, structural adjustment, refugee women, and the media. Distribution to Centres will take place between December 1994 and March 1995. For further information or advance text please contact:

Hasan Ferdous, DPI
Tel: (212) 963 6555
Fax: (212) 963 4556

FILM AND VIDEO

Many Centres have indicated their interest in a special series of *UN In Action* programmes on women around the world, now being developed by UNTV. The videos will be available as a package in all official languages in April 1995.

UN In Action: Empowering Guatemala's indigenous Women (10 October 1994, Programme no. 356, dur. 3'06", E, A, S, F, R). Thirty years of civil war resulted in death and displacement in the Guatemalan town of Nebaj. Particularly hard hit were the Ixil women and children, a Mayan people. A UN project called "PRODERE" is helping the women of Nebaj to learn income generating skills as part of a rehabilitation programme. Empowering women will be a major issue at the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in 1995.

UN Film & Video Catalogue. The UN Film and Video catalogue lists a number of video titles on women produced between 1980 and 1990 which are in active distribution: to be researched.

Women's Radio Programmes. United Nations Radio is planning to produce a series of 10 radio programmes on subjects of concern to women. The series is scheduled for distribution in June 1995.

UN Radio also plans to make the programmes available in package form for broadcasters interested in the series. The radio programmes will cover the following topics:

- women and poverty
- women's and girls' access to education, health and related services
- violence against women
- effects of armed and other kinds of conflicts on women
- inequality in decision-making mechanisms to promote the
- advancement of women
- women's legal rights
- women and the mass media
- women and the environment

Barbara Sue-Ting-Len, Chief
Audio-Visual Promotion and Distribution Unit
Tel: (212) 963 6869 Fax: (212) 963 6982

NEWS FORM THE FIELD

UN DAY ROUND-UP

UNIC Brussels translated the Secretary-General's UN Day message into Dutch and distributed it, along with the English and French versions, to the media. The daily Agence Europe, which is distributed throughout Europe, carried the message. The Centre also translated the summary of the Secretary-General's Annual Report on the Work of the Organization into Dutch.

UNIC Copenhagen reports that students in the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) organized fund-raising activities to support projects in developing countries with theatre, dance and music performances or soccer games to mark the Day. The UNAs in Denmark, Norway and Sweden organized public lectures and debates. UNA Norway invited José Ayala Lasso, High Commissioner for Human Rights, to speak at an event. UNIC Copenhagen also reports that all UN offices in Copenhagen, including UNIC, organized a gala and fund-raising event for aid projects benefiting children in Rwanda.

In Tanzania, the traditional UN Day flag-raising ceremony was held on 25 October at the Parliament together with a military parade, **UNIC Dar es Salaam** reports. The previous day, the UN Resident Coordinator was interviewed by Independent TV, which also broadcast the Secretary-General's message. UN agencies in Dar es Salaam held a reception attended by more than 400 Government officials, local media representatives and NGOs.

UNDP Kabul, which is temporarily relocated in Islamabad, reports that a special ceremony took place in Afghanistan with the participation of Government officials. The Secretary- General's message was translated into Afghan and distributed to the media.

UN Day was celebrated in Nepal with a reception, organized jointly by the UN Resident Coordinator and representatives of the UN agencies in Nepal, reports **UNIC Kathmandu**. Various UN information materials were displayed at the reception, which was attended by Government officials and representatives of NGOs, political parties and the media. UNIC Kathmandu issued a newsletter to educational institutions, NGOs and the media with information about the aims and principles of the United Nations. The Secretary-General's message and a UN Day message of the Prime Minister, Girija Prasad Koirala, were broadcast on Nepalese Radio and TV. UNA Nepal and UNIC organized round-table discussions and a flag-raising ceremony to mark UN Day.

UNIC Kinshasa held a photo and poster exhibit and film screenings for students, the media and NGOs. The Secretary-General's message was broadcast on Zaire National TV in French and with comments in local languages (Kiswahili, Kikongo, Tshiluba and Lingala). The Centre also held a film screening for 40 local journalists on the role of the United Nations.

In Kenya, UN Day celebrations were held under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, **UNIC Nairobi** reports. Events included a procession with flags of UN Member States, a meeting at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre, and a joint exhibition by UN offices in Nairobi. The Kenya Broadcasting Corporation broadcast a current affairs programme with the UNDP Resident Representative, as guest.

UNIC Washington reports that it sent the Secretary-General's UN Day video message to six TV channels, including the Flagship Channel of the University of Maryland; Arlington Community television, Virginia; Montgomery Community Television of Rockville, Maryland; and WNTV/WNVC, an internationally focused station for the Washington, Virginia and Maryland area. Cablevision News of Yonkers, New York, and Cablevision News of Washington, D.C. also planned to broadcast the message.

WORLD HABITAT DAY

UNIC Brazzaville prepared two briefing notes on the World Habitat Day, 3 October, which were distributed to the local media. The State Secretary for Urban Dwellings and the Habitat, Julien Bikou, made a speech at a special celebration for the Day, organized by the Government.

UNO in Georgia translated the Secretary-General's message for the Day into Georgian and disseminated it to local media. The text was published in Svobodnaya Gruzia and in Sakartvelos Respublika.

EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR AGENDA 21 LAUNCHED IN BELGIUM

A special three-year educational campaign, "Save the Earth", was launched in the Dutch-speaking region of Belgium on 18 October, **UNIC Brussels** reports. The campaign aims at assuring a thorough follow-up to Agenda 21, the main document adopted at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. It will be conducted by some 26 Government organizations and NGOs dealing with the environment, human rights, peace and development in collaboration with UNIC Brussels.

At a meeting launching the campaign, the Vice-President of the Belgian National Council for Sustainable Development, L. Baeck, read out a special message by Laurent, Prince of Belgium. The Prince paid tribute to the organizers of the campaign and encouraged young people to participate.

International Year of the Family

The Officer-in-Charge of UNIC Brussels, Ria Heremans, addressed the opening ceremony on 28 August of the World Congress on Health and Family: Responsibilities of Nurses and Midwives. She spoke about the International Year of the Family (IYF) on behalf of the Vienna- based Secretariat for the IYF. On behalf of IYF, Ms. Heremans handed over an IYF testimonial award to Mrs. A. Verlinde, Secretary-General of the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants, the organizer of the World Congress.

UNICS CELEBRATE DISARMAMENT WEEK

A seminar on United Nations peace-keeping, multilateralism and disarmament was organized jointly by **UNIC Buenos Aires** and the Ministry of Defence of Argentina to commemorate Disarmament Week (24-30 October). The seminar was mainly for students of different military schools, especially the Gendarmeria Nacional, which prepares peace-keeping operations. Professors and students of the international relations departments of different universities in Buenos Aires also attended.

UNIC Director Angel Escudero de Paz was among the panellists together with high-ranking military officials and university professors. Representatives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence and the media also participated.

Opening Disarmament Week in Argentina, Director of UNIC Buenos Aires reads out the Secretary-General's message for UN Day, 24 October 1994.

UNIC Rome co-sponsored with the Japanese NGO, Niwano Peace Foundation, and the International Franciscan Centre for Dialogue, a one-day conference on peace and disarmament. During the Conference, the Reference Assistant of UNIC Rome made a statement on disarmament and read out the Secretary-General's message for UN Day.

Held in the town of Assisi, the conference was followed by a peace concert performed by the American-Japanese artist John Kaizan Neptune, who played on sanukite stones using them as a musical instrument.

UNIC Islamabad held an information fair at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, displaying UN documents and information materials on disarmament throughout the Week. Translations of UN information materials into Urdu were disseminated to the print and electronic media.

The transfer of know-how and experience gained in UN peace processes was the subject of a one-week seminar held by **UNIC Lisbon** and the Portuguese Institute of Defence Studies at the Institute from 7 to 11 November. The seminar was attended by 30 graduates from Portugal and the five Portuguese-speaking African countries. They heard statements by former Portuguese observers to UN electoral missions in various parts of the world as well as humanitarian workers and journalists.

SEA LAW CONVENTION

The creation of a comprehensive law for the oceans was "an old dream" which would be one of the United Nations' most enduring legacies. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said this in a statement to the first meeting of the new Assembly of the International Seabed Authority in Kingston, Jamaica, on 16 November.

The Convention on the Law of the Sea fostered a new and more equitable relationship among States, he said, creating distinct zones of sovereignty and jurisdiction for coastal States. At the same time, it provided a legal framework for the development of for binding settlements of disputes. (Press release SEA/1451, 16 November 1994).

UNIC Lima organizes panel debate on Law of Sea

A panel discussion on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea was organized by **UNIC Lima** on 10 November. Ambassadors Juan Miguel Bakula and Alfonso Arias Schereiber, former heads of the Peruvian delegation to the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, were among the speakers. They called for Peru's accession, as soon as possible, to the Convention. Two Peruvian dailies, El Comercio and La Republica, carried articles on the event and the Law of the Sea Convention.

LAW OF THE SEA DOCUMENT

Law of the Sea, Report of the Secretary-General (A/49/631, 16 November 1994). With the Convention's entry into force on 16 November 1994, it is attracting renewed and widespread interest among governments, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs. This report contains a complete overview of developments in the field of the Law of the Sea, as well as the activities undertaken by the Secretary-General.

SANTIAGO JOURNALIST ROUND TABLE ON SOCIAL SUMMIT

The World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995) was the theme of a regional journalist round table, held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago, 24-25 November. Journalists representing the local, regional and international media attended the round table, which was hosted by ECLAC and DPI.

Among the speakers at the round table were ECLAC Executive Director Gert Rosenthal; Ambassador Juan Somavia, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the Social Summit; and UNIC Buenos Aires Director Angel Escudero, who read a message from Samir Sanbar, Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information. The ECLAC report, *The Social Panorama of Latin America, 1994*, was presented at a press conference after the round table discussion.

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SOCIAL SUMMIT MATERIALS

Television PSA is now available and is being sent to all UNICs (30 minutes, A, C, E, F, R, S, plus international version for local language adaptation). Please try to get it placed on national broadcasting outlets. For further information, contact:

Barbara Sue-Ting-Len, Chief
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Final Negotiating Text Completed, talks resuming on Copenhagen Summit (DPI/1612/Soc/Con December 1994).

Press release on the Draft Outcome of the Summit (A/CONF.166/PC/I.22).

SECRETARY-GENERAL IN ITALY

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On his official visit to Italy from 20 to 23 November, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met with the Prime Minister of Italy, Silvio Berlusconi, on the occasion of the opening ceremony in Naples of the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime.

While in Rome, the Secretary-General had an audience with Pope John Paul II.

INFORMATION CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights (A/49/582, 27 October 1994). This is the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations information and education programme launched by the General Assembly in 1988. Its goal is to educate the public on the international machinery available for the promotion and protection of human rights and the United Nations efforts to realize them. The report contains an overview of the information activities of the Centre for Human Rights and of DPI.

UN FINANCIAL SITUATION

As of 31 October 1994, contributions of $779.7 million had been received for the United Nations regular budget. Of that amount, $627.5 million constitutes payments against the current year's assessment representing 59.1 per cent of that assessment. At the same time last year, 57.9 per cent of the current year's assessment had been received. Status of Contributions as at 31 October 1994 (ST/ADM/SER.B./452, 4 November 1994).

DPI PROGRAMME UPDATE

A fortnightly publication of the Programme Support Section (PSS), Information Centres Service (ICS), DPI.
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